

General Environmental Incident Summary

Incident: 3280 **Date/Time Notice:** 4/7/2014 1630 **DEM Incident No:**
Responsible Party: Minnesota Power
Date Incident: 4/7/2014 **Time Incident:** 1200 **Duration:**
County: Oliver **Twp:** 142 **Rng:** 83 **Sec:** 33 **Qtr:**
Lat: 47.07077 **Long:** -101.19380 **Method:** Address matching
Location Description: Center HVDC Terminal Substation 2375 33rd Avenue SW Center, ND, 58530

Submitted By: Ross Peterson **Affiliation:** ALLETE INC.
Address: 30 West Superior St.
City: Duluth **State:** MN **Zip:** 55802

Received By:

Contact Person: Corey Axtman
30 West Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55802

Distance Nearest Occupied Building: **Release Contained:** Yes

Type of Incident: Electrical Equipment Leak

Description of Released Contaminant: Non-PCB Mineral Oil

Volume Spilled: 16.00 gallons **Ag Related:** No

EPA Extremely Hazardous Substance: No **Reported to NRC:** No

Cause of Incident:

Electrical equipment malfunction. With the snow receding from the transformer yard, the facility staff took the opportunity to closely inspect equipment for winter weather damage that may not have been previously visible. 4 pieces of equipment were discovered to be slowly weeping non-PCB oil. Potential transformers T4A, T3C, and T2B had leaks totaling 3-13 gallons from the CT plates and a medium capacitor had bulged releasing 1-3 gallons on No-PCB mineral oil. The capacitor was removed and replaced. The large transformers were cleaned up, leaks stopped and additional repairs will be made at the next scheduled electrical outage.

Risk Evaluation:

Minimal risk, spill was cleaned up immediately upon discovery.

of Fatalities: 0 **# of Injuries:** 0 **Affected Medium:** 03 - soil

Potential Environmental Impacts:

Minimal impacts to the environment.

Action Taken or Planned:

Absorbant pads were used to capture any free liquid. All soil with visible signs of oil was excavated into barrels.

Wastes Disposal Location: Impacted soil will be landfilled at a Clean Harbors facility and oil soaked absorbents will be recycled/burned for energy recovery.

Agencies Involved:

Updates

Date: 4/7/2014 **Status:** Reviewed - Assigned to NDDoH Division **Author:** Roberts, Kris

Updated Volume:

Notes:

Non-PCB transformer oil slow leak from three transformers. Forwarded to Division of Waste Management for any followup needed.

Date: 9/30/2014 **Status:** Inspection **Author:** Tintes Schiwal, Emily

Updated Volume:

Notes:

This leak was a result of multiple transformers slowly leaking underneath the snow during the winter months. The area of staining was only visible after snowmelt. The spill was cleaned up within 48 hours, and all contaminated materials were sent to Clean Harbors Landfill. No followup appears to be necessary.